

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Environmental Protection Commission**

ITEM

6

DECISION

TOPIC

Contracts for Archeological and/or Architectural History Services – State Revolving Fund

The Department requests Commission approval of contracts with the following firms:

- Wapsi Valley Archeology
- The Louis Berger Group, Inc.
- The 106 Group, Ltd.
- SCI Engineering, Inc.

The purpose of the contracts is to provide archeological and/or architectural history services relating to State Revolving Fund-financed water supply and wastewater construction projects. DNR intends to execute contracts with these service providers on a retainer basis. As the need for specific archeological and/or architectural history investigations is identified, the DNR will solicit bid proposals from the selected contractors for the specific scope of work. The DNR will then select the most appropriate bid proposal and will execute an addendum to the contract with the selected contractor to provide the specific services. This will speed the process of contracting for these services which are often time-sensitive.

Drinking water and wastewater construction projects funded by the SRF are considered federal undertakings. Each project must either have a Categorical Exclusion (CX) or must demonstrate a Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI), which must include documentation of the process of determining potential impacts on natural and cultural resources. Previously, the applicant was responsible to contract and pay for archeological and/or architectural history services.

Since November 1, 2006, the DNR's Environmental Review Services (ERS) Coordinator has been assisting SRF applicants by determining and issuing CXs, seeking clearances from consulting parties, contracting for archeological and/or architectural history investigations, preparing documentation for the State Historic Preservation Office, compiling the Environmental Information Documents, and issuing FNSIs.

Funding for these contracts will come from the administrative accounts of the Clean Water SRF and Drinking Water SRF programs. DNR may contract for Phase IA Survey or Phase I Survey archeological services and/or Reconnaissance Survey architectural history services as needed for specific applicant projects. If additional investigation or effort is required beyond those survey levels aforementioned, the cost and procurement of these surveys will be the responsibility of the SRF applicant.

DNR has projected that up to 60 investigations may be needed over the term of the contracts (April 15, 2007 – June 30, 2009), at an estimated total cost of \$180,000. The contracts are written to provide a not-to-exceed amount per firm of up to \$60,000 in order to give DNR flexibility in choosing the appropriate contractor for each work effort, but the contracts do not constitute a commitment by DNR to award any contract addenda.

A selection committee of DNR staff, advised by staff from the State Historic Preservation Office, chose the contractors based on their experience working in Iowa, the firms' qualifications, their ability to complete assignments on time, their cost proposals, and their ability to provide both archeological and architectural history services.

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